

## **Department of Public Health and Human Services Communications Overview**

DPHHS does not have a business need for an extensive radio system. While many of our stakeholders (public health, emergency medical services, hospitals) have communications needs for routine and disaster operations, they do not have a need to utilize those systems to talk with DPHHS or vice versa.

For example:

- 1) All EMS services have radio communications, but they generally only need to talk with other emergency services or hospitals. There is no compelling need for radio communications to the State level. If they are working under mutual aid or disaster conditions, they would continue to work through their local dispatch or emergency operations center.
- 2) Hospitals have base station radios, but they typically only use them to communicate with EMS. They could feasibly use them to communicate to other facilities or with DPHHS, but since there is no routine need to do this for normal operations, using these radios for disaster operations would be foreign to them. Additionally, they also need to work through local incident command or unified command if they are working through a disaster or other event.
- 3) Public health departments do not generally have any radio communications capability nor would they then know how to use them if they were given radios for an event. Public health departments are encouraged to form relationships with local disaster services for use of radios, and people to man them, if they ever have a need for radio communications.

DPHHS does maintain a small cache of radios and other capabilities for operations:

- 1) P-25 base station radios at the Cogswell Building EOC and DES EOC.
- 2) A cache of 8 P-25 portables at the Cogswell EOC for internal use.
- 3) A cache of 20 portables at the SNS warehouse for warehouse or EOC operations.
- 4) Four P-25, trunk capable portables at the EMS and Trauma Systems Section.
- 5) Mobile P-25 radios in each of two ambulance-type mobile incident management vehicles (MIMUs).
- 6) In addition, DPHHS maintains a small communications trailer with P-25 radio capabilities as well as satellite phones, a telephone bank, and satellite capabilities for phones and internet.
- 7) Eight satellite phones are available for internal communications. They could be dispatched to local areas as needed.
- 8) DPHHS has partnered with ham radio operators for potential communications needs.

Since DPHHS's role in disaster management would be to provide a support and technical assistance role to other State agencies or local governments, these communications capabilities are in place to primarily effect internal communications and communication with State DES.